



Women in the Law. (1985).

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Washington State Supreme Court Gender & Justice Commission

2014 Annual Report



Many thanks to our Commission Chair, Vice Chair, Members, Student Liaisons, and Staff who are dedicated to the work of the Gender & Justice Commission.

Commission Members

- ~ Chief Justice Barbara A. Madsen, *Chair*
- ~ Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, *Vice Chair*
- ~ Ms. Sara Ainsworth, National Advocates for Pregnant Women; *Chair, Incarcerated Women & Girls Committee*
- ~ Ms. Mirta “Laura” Contreras, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- ~ Ms. Josie Delvin, Benton County Clerk
- ~ Judge Michael H. Evans, Cowlitz County Superior Court
- ~ Dr. Margaret Hobart, Northwest Network
- ~ Ms. Grace Huang, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- ~ Judge Judy Rae Jasprica, Pierce County District Court; *Chair, Domestic Violence Committee*
- ~ Ms. LaTricia Kinlow, Court Administrator, Tukwila Municipal Court
- ~ Professor Taryn Lindhorst, University of Washington
- ~ Ms. Judith A. Lonquist, Attorney-at-Law; *Chair, Women in the Profession Committee*
- ~ Judge Eric Z. Lucas, Snohomish County Superior Court
- ~ Judge Rich Melnick, Court of Appeals, Division II; *Chair, Education Committee*
- ~ Mr. Ron E. Miles, Court Administrator, Spokane County Superior Court; *Chair, Communications Committee*
- ~ Judge Marilyn G. Paja, Kitsap County District Court
- ~ Chief Judge Mark W. Pouley, Swinomish Tribal Court; *Liaison, Tribal State Court Consortium*
- ~ Ms. Leslie Savina, Northwest Justice Project
- ~ Judge Ann Schindler, Court of Appeals, Division I
- ~ Ms. Gail Stone, King County Law & Justice Policy Advisor
- ~ Presiding Judge Tom Tremaine, Kalispel Tribal Court; *Liaison, Tribal State Court Consortium*
- ~ Mr. David Ward, Legal Voice; *Chair, Legislative Committee*
- ~ Ms. CaroLea Casas, Student Liaison, University of Puget Sound
- ~ Ms. Alexandra Kory, Student Liaison, Seattle University School of Law

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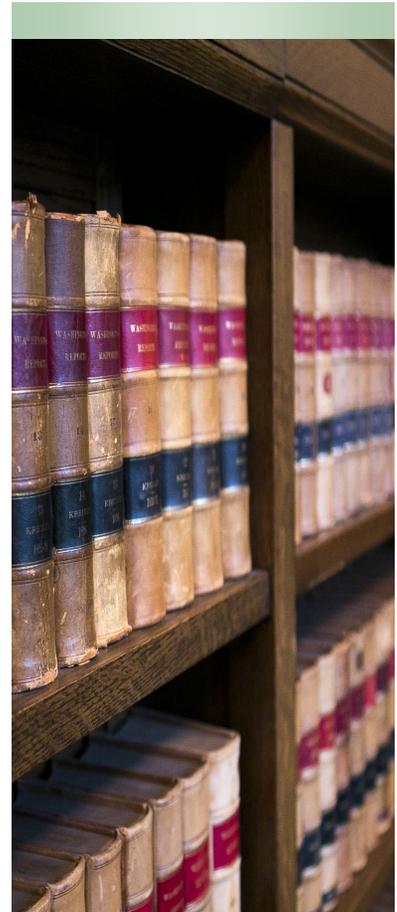
Welcome

The Washington State Supreme Court Gender & Justice Commission (Commission) is one of four Supreme Court commissions, including the Minority & Justice Commission, the Interpreter Commission, and the Commission on Children in Foster Care. The commissions work in tandem and are mainly staffed through the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

The Gender & Justice Commission provides a leadership role in helping eliminate gender discrimination and bias in our courts. With the assistance of judicial officers and

other court personnel, the Commission has been able to develop educational programs, assist with research projects, organize projects, review and answer legislation, and much more to address issues related to access to justice.

The Commission has undertaken projects and topics aimed at improving education and training of judicial officers and court personnel regarding access to justice issues. The Commission actively works with the other commissions in pooling resources to accomplish our mission, vision, and goals.



The Gender & Justice Commission provides a leadership role in helping eliminate gender discrimination and bias in our courts.

Message From the Chair

On behalf of the Washington State Supreme Court Gender & Justice Commission, I am pleased to present you with the 2014 Annual Report showcasing the Commission's work, leadership efforts, partnerships, and contributions to addressing gender equality in our legal system.

We are proud of the progress we have made, but we continue to look to the future. The Commission remains committed to identifying and addressing systemic issues that impede access to justice. We recognize the need to continue to foster relationships and build partnerships. Our collaborations with the other Supreme Court commissions, our state's legislators, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Board for Judicial Administration, our community partners, national organizations, and others allow us to promote equality and equal access to justice.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Chief Justice Barbara Madsen



Membership

The Commission is comprised of twenty-one members who are appointed for one, three-year term and are provided an opportunity to renew for a second, three-year term. This year we had an outgoing member, several incoming members, including some returning faces and have two students from local universities serving as student liaisons.



Incoming Members

Chief Justice Barbara Madsen appointed Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud as a new member and to fill the Vice Chair vacancy. Justice Gordon McCloud expressed interest in the work of the Commission and in particular in working on expanding its role on issues surrounding gender equality.

The Honorable Josie Delvin, Benton County Clerk, was appointed for her first three-year term. She has served as the County Clerks' representative to the Domestic Violence Subcommittee of the Washington State Pattern Forms Committee, has served on the Board of Directors for the Domestic Violence Services of Benton and Franklin Counties, and is active in the ARC of Tri-Cities.

Ms. Grace Huang is the Public Policy Program Coordinator at the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence where she does advocacy work on behalf of domestic violence survivors and programs in state and federal legislative, administrative, and legal arenas. She wanted to join the Commission because much of her policy work is influenced by the courts, which in turn affects how courts address domestic violence. Ms. Huang's goal is to improve access to justice for domestic violence survivors.

Ms. LaTricia Kinlow is the Court Administrator for Tukwila Municipal Court. Ms. Kinlow brings with her the commitment and passion for working with faith-based communities, youth groups, parent groups, women's organizations, and court personnel. She works with the District and Municipal Court Management Association to conduct customer service training, promotes gender equality in the system of law and justice, and has spearheaded work with faith-based communities on intimate partner violence issues.

Outgoing Member

The Honorable Ruth Gordon, Jefferson County Clerk, served from 2009 through 2014 as a member of the Commission and served her final two years as the Vice Chair. Ms. Gordon is passionate and dedicated to the work of the Commission. She was an active participant and instrumental in assisting with the passage of the shackling legislation in 2010. She remains a valuable resource for the Commission notwithstanding her many other commitments.

Staff

Ms. Danielle Pugh-Markie began working with the AOC in January 2014, as the Supreme Court Commissions Manager under the newly formed Office of Court Innovation. The Office of Court Innovation includes the work of the four Washington State Supreme Court commissions (Gender & Justice, Minority & Justice, Interpreter, and Children on Foster Care) which address issues affecting access to justice. The Supreme Court Commissions Manager oversees the work and program staff of three of the commissions which allows for collaboration and coordination among the commissions. The position also ensures the needs of judicial officers, court staff, and court clients are met. The commissions are primarily funded by the Washington State Legislature through the AOC. In addition to these funds, staff solicit federal and foundation grants to undertake specific projects.

Ms. Pugh-Markie has worked on the national and international level and comes to AOC from the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges where she coordinated training and provided technical assistance to judges, domestic violence advocates, and court personnel working on matters relating to both criminal and civil laws and procedures.

Ms. Pam Dittman came to the AOC in 2011 to support STOP grant related activities. Ms. Dittman's role has expanded and she is now primary support for the Commission and its committees. Prior to this position, Pam spent eight years as the Program Coordinator with the Pierce County Commission Against Domestic Violence focusing her efforts on primary prevention of intimate partner violence.

Commission Logo

In mid-2014, the Commission sponsored a "logo design contest" and contacted over 50 local education systems soliciting entries. Several entries were submitted to the Commission.

Ms. CaroLea Casas, University of Puget Sound, Student Liaison, led this effort and worked with students and Commission members to create a design that captures the essence of the Commission.

Although not yet approved at the printing of this report, we look forward to unveiling the logo in 2015.

Women Legislators Luncheon

In celebration of National Women's History Month and International Women's Day, the Commission invited the Washington State women legislators to a luncheon. The agenda included a recognition by Chief Justice Barbara Madsen of all the women legislators and their leadership on issues that enhance and promote gender equality.

The luncheon provided attendees with an overview of the work the Commission has done in conjunction with legislative partnerships that have supported victims of domestic violence, incarcerated women, and the legal system. Attendees heard about the ongoing efforts of Commission members in addressing sentencing and monitoring practices in domestic violence cases, strides being made in the Tribal State Court Consortium, and involvement in statewide human trafficking task forces.

Civil Legal Aid Needs Study

The Commission is one of many contributors to the update of the 2003 Civil Legal Needs Study. The final report is anticipated to be released in spring 2015.

The 2003 study documented that low-income persons, especially women and children, rarely obtained legal assistance for important legal problems, even though those problems generally involve basic human needs such as protection from domestic violence, dislocation from housing, and matters relating to personal and family safety and security.

The 2015 update digs deeper into the problems experienced by low-income individuals and families and will allow a more granular assessment of: (a) the prevalence of legal problems

experienced by the general low-income population as well as by gender, age, race, immigration status and other demographic characteristics; b) the substantive range of legal problems experienced by low-income Washingtonians, including new problems not identified in the 2003 report; (c) the degree to which individuals seek and are/are not able to get legal help; and (d) perceptions of the relevance and responsiveness of the civil justice system to the justice needs of low-income individuals and families.



Representative Linda Kochmar and Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud

5th Annual Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception

The Commission held its 5th Annual Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception. This annual reception creates a forum for judicial officers and law students to connect and network. The Commission partners with the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), the Washington State Association for Justice (WSAJ), and the Women's Law Caucuses of Seattle University and University of Washington. As part of the reception, scholarships were awarded to female law students who demonstrate a commitment to issues of gender bias, diversity, and equality in the system of justice.

5th Annual Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception (cont.)

The scholarship funds were secured through NAWJ and WSAJ by Judge Marilyn G. Paja, Kitsap County District Court and Chair, NAWJ District 13 and by Ms. Judith Lonquist, local attorney and WSAJ representative.

Approximately 70 persons attended including judicial officers, law students, Commission members, representatives from WSAJ, and five representatives from the Washington State Supreme Court. At the celebration, scholarships were awarded to women law students from Seattle University School of Law. Ms. Amy Larson and Ms. Yessenia Medrano-Vossler each received a \$1,000 scholarship with a \$500 award going to Ms. Erika Evans.

Ms. Larson was awarded a Bachelor of Arts from Seattle Pacific University. As a third year law student, she currently works as an extern for the King County Prosecutor's Office and is a board member on the Public Interest Law Foundation. Ms. Larson has worked and volunteered for organizations focused on public health issues in Tanzania and Ghana and was the recipient of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation Fellowship. She has worked with Disability Rights Washington, the Washington Attorney General's Office, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. After graduating, she would like to work for the government in some capacity, maybe as a prosecutor or in the Foreign Service.

Ms. Medrano-Vossler earned a Bachelor of Arts from Seattle University. As a second year law student, she is a staff member on the Seattle Journal for Social Justice, a board member of the Seattle University Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Public Interest Law Foundation, and a current intern with the Family Services Unit at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. Ms. Medrano-Vossler has also volunteered and worked for the ACLU of Arizona and El Centro De La Raza. She is proficient in Spanish and has volunteered at the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington legal clinic at El Centro since 2012. After graduation she plans to work for a legal services or nonprofit law firm advocating for immigrant and civil rights.

A third scholarship provided by NAWJ was awarded in a separate ceremony to Ms. Erika Evans. Judge Karen Donohue, the NAWJ Washington State Chair, recognized and presented Ms. Evans her award at the Seattle Municipal Courtroom.

Building Partnerships Bridging Gaps

The Commission values its partners as they provide us the ability to maximize our resources, understand the needs of the court clientele, and allow for meaningful and constructive dialogue about the issues at hand.

Ms. Amy Larson





Ms. Leslie Savina &
Ms. Yessenia Medrano-Vossler

5th Annual Judicial Officer & Law Student Reception (cont.)

Ms. Evans graduated on the Dean’s List from the University of Washington, and is currently a third year law student and the president of the Black Law Student Association at the Seattle University School of Law. She is the first in her family to attend graduate school and has extensive volunteer and legal experience working with the homeless, incarcerated parents

in clinic settings, the moderate means program, and with private law firms. Personal and professional recognition of the barriers that exist for low-income and women of color has shaped Ms. Evans’ strong interest in pursuing civil rights law in the future.

*“I rejected the notion that my race or sex would bar my success in life.”
~Constance Baker Motley, first African-American woman
to serve as a federal judge*



Ms. Erika Evans & Judge Karen Donohue

Success Inside and Out

The Commission partnered with the Department of Corrections’ Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW), a minimum security correctional facility for women, to coordinate a session modeled on the National Association of Women Judges, *Success Inside and Out*, program.

Judges Marilyn Paja, Kitsap County District Court, and Michael Evans, Cowlitz County Superior Court, along with Supreme Court Commissions Manager, Danielle Pugh-Markie, worked with MCCCW staff to develop an educational program on the impact of domestic violence and community reentry transitional skills and opportunities.

Justice Susan Owens gave well-received plenary opening remarks. The documentary video, *Girl Trouble*, was shown and local domestic violence advocate, Debbie Brockman from the Kitsap County YWCA ALIVE Shelter provided an audience debrief.

Planning included the Northwest Justice Project and the Seattle University School of Law Incarcerated Women’s Project. The session was a resounding success and the Commission plans to continue its partnership with MCCCW in 2015.

Tribal State Court Consortium

The Commission received funding through the Washington State Department of Commerce, Grants to Encourage Arrest (GTEA) to assist with work on issues affecting tribal and state courts. The grant has provided funding for judges to attend the 2014 Annual Fall Judicial Conference, and in 2015, will fund three regional meetings to discuss cross-court collaboration on issues involving sexual assault, domestic violence, and the new enhancements provided under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. The first meeting will be hosted by the Suquamish Tribe and will be held on February 25, 2015.

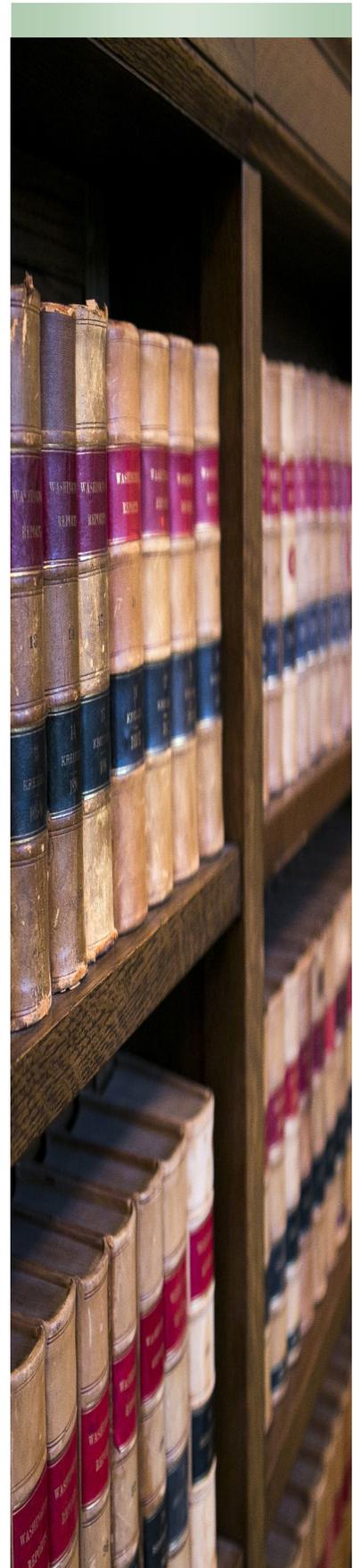
Incarcerated Women & Girls

The Incarcerated Women & Girls Committee released a follow-up public disclosure request to jails, juvenile rehabilitation centers, and Department of Corrections asking them for information about training materials, policies, and notices that were developed following the enactment of the 2010 legislation, which precludes the shackling of women prisoners during labor and delivery with limited exceptions. For example, the legislation directed institutions on where to post and how to provide notice to inmates and staff on shackling. The findings of the request were that most correctional facilities have instituted policies and protocols for correctional officers and on-site medical staff, have incorporated the policy and protocols into inmate handbooks, and have posted information.

The Committee also brought together approximately 30 stakeholders, including formerly incarcerated women, to discuss barriers to incarcerated women and girls in the area of access to justice and in particular, to address child custody and parenting issues. As a result of the meeting, stakeholders formed a workgroup, which will meet in 2015 to implement recommendations for addressing some of the barriers that are created by current systems.



Success Inside and Out program attendees.



Education

The Commission recognizes the need to provide educational programs not only at home, but also acknowledges the value for judicial officers and court staff to engage at a national level and provide scholarships for attendance at these national trainings and conferences.

At home, the Commission uses funds to develop and provide trainings at in-state judicial conferences and for court managers and court staff conferences. (District & Municipal Court Judges' Association, Superior Court Judges' Association, Appellate Judicial College, and Annual Fall Conference.)

Staff and Commission members also develop stand-alone workshops and webinars when legislation is enacted or innovative approaches to relevant topics are identified.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Annual Conference

The Commission, through STOP grant funds, was able to provide scholarships for nine judicial officers to attend the NCJFCJ 77th Annual Conference. Participants attended the many sessions that discussed domestic violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation, tribal/state protective order enforcement, judicial leadership, and other related topics.

Enhancing and/or Continuing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases

For the past ten years, the Commission through STOP grant funds has provided scholarships to judicial officers to attend workshops developed by the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence (NJIDV), a project of NCJFCJ and Futures Without Violence. In 2014, eight judicial officers were provided scholarships to attend the Enhancing Judicial Skills (EJS) in Domestic Violence (DV) Cases workshop and six judicial officers were provided scholarships to attend the Continuing Judicial Skills (CJS) in DV Cases workshop. These interactive workshops address issues such as victim and perpetrator behavior; fact-finding; access to justice and judicial officers as leaders; cultural competency; immigration and trafficking; orders of protection; and effective batterer accountability. These sessions provided opportunities to discuss practical courtroom practices and procedures in both civil and criminal cases.

Courthouse Facilitator Training

The Commission received a proposal for funding support from AOC staff to send courthouse facilitators to the 22nd Annual Children's Justice Conference in Spokane. This conference was sponsored and developed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and has been the leading conference in the Northwest for issues related to child maltreatment.

Through STOP funds, the Commission was able to provide scholarships to approximately 25 court personnel including courthouse facilitators. Attendees were required to attend sessions related to domestic violence and sexual assault and also went to other sessions that addressed LGBTQ youth.

Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

The NCJFCJ and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) sponsored a regional conference on Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange in San Diego, California. The conference provided practice strategies for supervised visitation and safe exchange services in families where domestic violence has been identified. National experts provided education on safety and security, policy development, working with men who batter, women who use violence in intimate partner relationships, and custody decisions in cases of domestic violence.

STOP grant funds allowed for a four-person team representing safe exchange programs from Thurston County to attend. Participants expressed that being able to attend and connect with others who provide safe exchange programs was insightful and they came away from the conference with practical tools on how to provide a safe place for children to visit with a parent.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Training

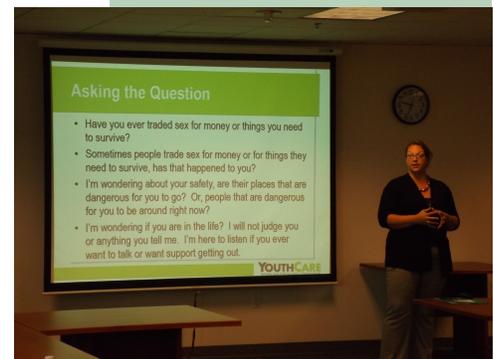
The Commission on Children in Foster Care partnered with the Commission to raise awareness among judicial officers on the co-occurrence of sex trafficking and the dependency and delinquency systems and to help court officials identify these children and appropriately respond to their needs. As part of this partnership, a training on the commercial sexual exploitation of children was held August 2, 2014. Judge Marilyn Paja and Presiding Judge Tom Tremaine both attended on behalf of the Commission. The panel was comprised of Ms. Leslie Briner, YouthCare; Commissioner Catherine Pratt, Compton Juvenile Court; and Ms. Tammy Sneed, Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Attendees from Washington State included child advocacy, law enforcement, judicial officers, and early responders.

This workshop highlighted the dynamics of CSEC covering recruitment and grooming tactics used by traffickers, trafficker and buyer profiles, victim identification, impact of trauma, and challenges to rehabilitation. Faculty also discussed how child welfare in Connecticut collaborates and responds to CSEC victims and how judicial officers in Los Angeles County created a collaborative court (STAR – Succeed Through Achievement and Resilience) to respond to youth arrested or who disclosed involvement in prostitution.

Domestic Child Sex Trafficking (DCST)

The Commission supported a team of judicial officers and staff to attend the NCJFCJ Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Judicial Institute in Reno on November 3-5, 2014.

The program was designed to assist judicial officers with identifying victims and children at risk of DCST. It also explored how child welfare and juvenile justice involvement contribute to exploitation; discussed treatment and services needed to assist child trafficking victims; and provided judicial officers with practical ideas on how to exercise judicial leadership in the court and community to improve outcomes for victims.





Non-Consensual Pornography

The Commission was able to work with Professor Mary Anne Franks, Associate Professor of Law for the University of Miami School of Law, to develop a program, “Protecting Sexual Privacy in the Internet Age: The Rise of Revenge Porn and How to Stop It” for the Superior Court Judges’ Association Spring Conference.

The Commission hosted a follow-up community presentation and discussion in Olympia on “revenge porn” or non-consensual pornography. This

event was well attended with over 85 attendees from local social service agencies, courts, lawyers, advocates, and the Legislature. Following the presentation, the Commission hosted a smaller discussion specifically around how to craft legislation addressing non-consensual pornography.

This education session and follow-up event were made possible through the use of STOP grant funds.

“We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.” ~Sonia Sotomayor



Pro Tempore CLE

The Commission continues to value diversity in decision makers. In its ongoing effort to attract diverse judges, Commission staff provide support to the District and Municipal Court Judges’ Association Diversity Committee which co-sponsors a CLE every other year for lawyers now serving or interested in serving as a judge pro tem (i.e., a substitute in absence of the judicial officer).

This year the one and a half day training was held at the WSBA-CLE Conference Center in Seattle and was co-sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association

(WSBA) and the NAWJ. The Conference Center allows for in-person and online attendance through webcasting capabilities. The Committee developed and distributed a needs assessment to all prior session attendees to assist with content development for the training.

Approximately 125 attendees from across the state participated both in-person and online. Opening remarks were provided by Justice Mary Yu, Washington State Supreme Court, and sessions were conducted by 13 volunteer judicial officers and court staff.

Funding

Commission staff seek funding from a variety of sources in response to court needs, which allows for responding to emerging needs and issues around bias, rights for incarcerated women and girls, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, addressing collaboration between tribal and state courts, and other gender related issues.

In 2014, funds were secured through direct grants from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Department of Justice, through pass through funds from the Washington State Department of Commerce, and by the Washington State Legislature through the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Commission had three main funding sources in 2014: the five percent court set-aside from the federal STOP grant funds (OVW), which addresses domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and teen dating violence; pass through funds from the Department of Commerce under the OVW Grants to Encourage Arrest (GTEA) program, which addresses our need to foster communication and collaborative measures between state and tribal courts on domestic and sexual violence cases; and an OVW Grants to Support Families in the Justice System, which addresses specific training needs for judicial officers on sexual violence cases.

Interpreting in Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Cases

In partnership with the Washington State Supreme Court Interpreter Commission and the Minority & Justice Commission, the Commission developed and hosted three consecutive, one-day trainings for Washington State Court interpreters related to interpreting in domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) legal proceedings and court settings. The Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence served as the technical assistance provider for language access issues in DV/SA legal settings and provided the training faculty and seminar content. The sessions were held May 15-17, 2014, in Seattle, SeaTac, and Spokane with approximately 30 American Sign Language and 120 foreign language interpreters attending. This free training for both spoken language and sign language interpreters was made possible through funding from the Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and STOP grant funds.

Sexual Assault Grant

The Commission received a \$50,000, two-year grant from the OVW to work with and train judicial officers on addressing sexual violence cases.

To help determine the curricula and the needs of judicial officers, in April 2014, a one-day stakeholders meeting was held which included representatives from the courts, judicial officers, local sexual assault service providers, and the national technical assistance providers.

As a precursor to the February 2015 *Enhancing Courts' Response to Adult Victim Sexual Violence Workshop*, the team developed a webinar addressing Intimate Partner Sexual Assault (IPSA). The December 2014, webinar was attended by 40 individuals.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Commission sponsored a session at the 2014 Annual Fall Conference addressing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Dr. Chris Blodgett was the main presenter and discussed how traumatic childhood experiences, including family violence, leads to social, emotional, and cognitive impairments.

Judicial officers were provided a foundation on how to recognize ACEs and were encouraged to take these factors and experiences into account when crafting orders or working with families.

What Should I Do If...Ethical and Practical Suggestions to Dicey Situations

Commission member Ms. LaTricia Kinlow, Tukwila Municipal Court Administrator, and former member Ms. Terri Cooper, Chelan Municipal Court Administrator, worked with Commission staff to develop and present training on addressing ethical challenges facing court staff. These training sessions were offered at the District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA) Conference, Line Staff Conference, and to Snohomish County District Court staff. These interactive sessions provided participants a forum to address the unexpected and challenging circumstances that happen in the courtroom, at the counter, and in the courthouse and to discuss court decorum, fairness, and strategies for handling these situations. Presenters were Mr. Dirk Marler, Director, Judicial Services Division, AOC; Ms. Reiko Callner, Executive Director, Washington State Commission on Judicial Conduct; and Ms. LaTricia Kinlow.

"I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. ...there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." ~Alice Paul

Sentencing & Monitoring Project

The Commission's Domestic Violence Committee has been working with the Center for Court Innovation on a study addressing the sentencing and monitoring of batterers in domestic violence cases.

This project will evaluate the effectiveness of batterer's intervention treatment and help identify best practices for sentencing batterers.

In the first phase of the project, a survey was conducted of judicial officers from courts of limited jurisdiction asking about their courts' practices around

sentencing and monitoring in domestic violence cases.

The second phase of the project included tabulating data obtained from the Judicial Information System on domestic violence cases and conducting site visits to three courts. The site visits included interviewing judicial officers, court staff, law enforcement, probation, batterer treatment providers, and victim service agencies.

A report to the Commission is due spring 2015 from the Center for Court Innovation.

6th Annual Domestic Violence Symposium

STOP funding provided registration fees, travel-related costs, and pro tempore fees for judicial officers to attend the 6th Annual Domestic Violence Symposium. The symposium was co-chaired by Ms. Deborah Greenleaf, King County Superior Court DV & Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Coordinator, and Ms. Tracy Orcutt, King County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, VAWA STOP Grant Coordinator. The symposium was also supported by numerous community partners and grants which allowed ease of accessibility and affordability for the multidisciplinary audience. Over 500 participants attended the symposium with 41 judicial officers in attendance and several as presenters.

During the symposium, former Commission member and retired Judge Joan DuBuque, King County Superior Court, received the first annual DV Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her many efforts to educate, promote, and coordinate domestic violence prevention services on both local and national levels.

HB 1840 Surrender of Firearms

The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) received STOP funds to assist with initial work on HB 1840 legislation, which brought Washington State law in-line with federal law regarding surrender of firearms and dangerous weapons. The WSCADV used the monies to develop and distribute an information packet for community-based domestic violence advocacy programs, conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to domestic violence advocacy programs, develop a needs assessment, and develop a training on requirements for the implementation of HB 1840 for courts, attorneys, advocates, and law enforcement.

In addition to this work, the AOC's Pattern Forms Committee developed pattern forms for use in documenting a restrained person's compliance with an order to surrender firearms, dangerous weapons, and the person's concealed pistol license. The newly developed forms were released on December 1, 2014, and can be found on the Washington Courts website under Courts, Court Forms (<http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/?fa=forms.static&staticID=14>).

In the coming year, the Commission plans to follow-up with individual jurisdictions to determine whether the requirements of HB 1840 are being implemented and the protocols followed.

Race: The Power of an Illusion

In collaboration with the Minority & Justice Commission, Mr. Khatib Waheed presented at the 2014 Annual Fall Conference.

The session guided participants through a discussion on the court's role in determining race and ethnicity, using the video *Race: The Power of an Illusion "The House We Live in."* Judicial officers also looked at how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status, and wealth.

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Looking Forward

The Commission moves into the next five years with the recognition that we need to continue our efforts to identify gender-based stereotypes and how they affect our legal system. We will continue to focus on the foundational mission while exploring and developing best practices and promising strategies for addressing human trafficking; sentencing and monitoring practices for batterer intervention programs in domestic violence cases; equity and social justice for incarcerated women and girls; how technology affects the world we live in: privacy, cyberbullying, non-consensual pornography; sustainability of programs; sexual violence; and encouraging and enhancing diversity in judicial leadership.

Cover Art

Linda Haakon Israel has spent most of her life learning to analyze and address one problem: *How to support women as key to solving the challenges of survival, health, reconstruction and peace-building in refugee and post conflict settings.*



In 1985, Ms. Israel was commissioned to create a painting “Women in Law” to commemorate women in the legal profession; the artwork was unveiled at the US Supreme Court by (then) Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. Justice O’Connor promoted using this image to inspire new mechanisms to work for justice.